

**APPLICATION REPORT**

**Project Name:** Latinos Aprendiendo Juntos  
**Applicant Organization:** The Arc of California  
**Awarded Amount:** \$283,769  
**Funding Announcement Name:** Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant



**PROJECT SUMMARY**

This project is designed to expand Congreso Familiar beyond Regional Center of the East Bay to three additional Regional Centers: Central Valley, Valley Mountain, and San Diego. This project will provide information, education and advocacy skills to support Latino individuals with ID/D and their families. This proposal also seeks to help address the digital divide through the provision of devices and technological training to allow the community to have access to supports and services they need.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<b>Applicant Eligibility</b>		
<b>Applicant Information</b>		
<b>1. Project Title</b> What is the Project Title?	<b>Applicant Response</b> Latinos Aprendiendo Juntos	
<b>2. Awarded Amount</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b> \$283,769	
<b>3. Organization Type</b> Please check the box that describes your organization	<b>Applicant Response</b> Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)	
<b>4. Description of Organization/Group</b> Provide a brief description of the organization/group (organization type, group mission, etc.). Explain what experience your organization has managing a program similar to the proposal and state the outcomes of that program.	<b>Applicant Response</b> <p>Congreso Familiar was established in 1990 to develop leadership skills and provide education and information to Spanish-speaking families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (“ID/D”) in their primary language - Spanish. Research has established that people who learn in their primary language are much more likely to understand and retain information.</p> <p>Congreso Familiar was - and is - Northern California’s largest gathering of Latino families in a daylong conference format. Last year, Congreso Familiar served over 744 participants in both Alameda and Contra Costa County. The conference provided families with access to 56 workshops, ranging from Autism 101 to adult transition, and incorporated workshops designed to serve individuals of all ages and intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p> <p>In collaboration with Regional Center of the East Bay, Congreso Familiar provides Spanish-speaking families with Spanish-speaking workshops, Spanish-speaking materials, Spanish-speaking vendors, and, perhaps most importantly, Spanish-speaking peers. Families feel comfortable asking questions and networking with professionals who speak the same language for what is, perhaps, the first time.</p> <p>In 2020, with the Coronavirus pandemic, Congreso Familiar had to pivot from a physical conference to a virtual platform. Instead of offering 56 workshops on one day, it determined that it would offer weekly workshops over a period of 36 weeks. These workshops were available to not only Alameda and Contra Costa residents, but due to their virtual nature, have been attended by people throughout California, as well as the United States.</p> <p>As a result, there is now an opportunity for Congreso to reach other Regional Center’s Spanish-speaking families who may equally benefit. This grant focuses on expanding Congreso beyond Regional Center of the East Bay to the following three Regional Centers, all of which have a large Spanish-speaking population: Central Valley Regional Center, Valley Mountain Regional Center, and San Diego Regional Center.</p> <p>For this grant proposal, Congreso is affiliated with The Arc of California as a fiscal agent.</p>	
<b>5. Applicant in Good Standing</b> Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?	<b>Applicant Response</b> Yes	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<b>6. Subcontractors in Good Standing</b> Are the applicant's subcontractors in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>Grant Reapplication Information</b>		
<b>Grant Reapplications Only</b>		
<b>1. Grant Number</b> (Reapplications Only) What is the Grant Number of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>2. Project Title</b> (Reapplications Only) What is the Project Title of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>3. Project Start &amp; End Dates</b> (Reapplications Only) What are the Start & End Dates of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>4. Project Duration</b> (Reapplications Only) What is the Total Project Duration (in months) of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>5. 2016/2017 Award</b> (Reapplications Only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>6. 2016/2017 Expenses</b> (Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was expended in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b>  Not Applicable	
<b>7. 2016/2017 Remaining</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>8. 2017/2018 Award</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>9. 2017/2018 Expenses</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants) Enter the amount of funding that was expended in FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>10. 2017/2018 Remaining</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>11. 2018/2019 Award</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>12. 2018/2019 Expenses</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the total amount of funding that was expended, or is anticipated to be expended, in FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>13. 2018/2019 Remaining</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>14. 2019/2020 Award</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>15. 2019/2020 Expenses</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the total amount of funding that was expended, or is anticipated to be expended, in FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>16. 2019/2020 Remaining</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>17. Total Awarded</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplicants only) Combine the amounts included in FY 2016/2017, FY 2017/2018, FY 2018/2019, and FY 2019/2020 for the total amount awarded for the project. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>18. Initial Proposed Number of People Served</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplications Only) Include the initial number of people projected to be served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>19. Actual Number of People Served</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
(Reapplications Only) Include the actual number of people served. Explain why this number is different from the projected impact number. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>20. Regional Centers in Catchment Area</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplications Only) List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas that the project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
<b>21. Cities Served</b> (Reapplications Only) List the cities your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable	
<b>22. Counties Served</b> (Reapplications Only) List the counties your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable	
<b>23. City of Los Angeles</b> (Reapplications Only) If your project has served the City of Los Angeles, list the zip code(s) and/or community(ies) your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable	
<b>24. Activities to Date</b> (Reapplications Only) Provide a detailed explanation of project activities to date. Include what the project has accomplished to date. From the start of the project to the date of reapplication, what are the key accomplishments? Have all activities been completed? If no, why not? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable	
<b>25. Project Impact &amp; Outcome</b> (Reapplications Only) Provide a detailed explanation of project impacts and outcomes to date. Attach data (summary of pre-tests and post-tests), participant success stories to demonstrate project outcomes and impacts. Provide outcomes of your project's impact in serving the target communities. Using your attached data, provide a brief statement of key findings. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p><b>26. Project Objectives</b></p> <p>(Reapplications Only) What are the projects objectives in addressing disparities and what remains to be addressed/completed? Explain why these objectives have not been completed during the current grant period. Provide a brief description of the key lessons learned from your current project, if any. What were some of the challenges that prevented your project from meeting your objectives/measures? What are some strategies your organization plans to implement to address challenges, if any? If not applicable select Not Applicable.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p><b>27. Project Transition</b></p> <p>(Reapplications Only) If awarded, how will your current project transition into the 2020/21 proposed project? How does your proposed project complement your current project? Does your proposed project expand or continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change. If not applicable, select Not Applicable.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p><b>General Application</b></p> <p><b>Proposal Summary</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Individuals Impacted</b></p> <p>Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>720</p>	
<p><b>2. People Served</b></p> <p>What is proposed number of people projected to be served?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>720</p>	
<p><b>3. Duration of project</b></p> <p>What is the duration of the project? Enter Start &amp; End Dates.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Start Date: 03/01/2021, End Date: 02/28/2023</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<b>4. Duration of project (months)</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
What is the total duration of project in months?	24	
<b>5. Regional Centers</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas.	Regional Center of the East Bay Central Valley Regional Center Valley Mountain Regional Center San Diego Regional Center	
<b>6. Cities Served</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	<p>Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, San Lorenzo, and Sunol.</p> <p>Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek, plus the unincorporated areas of Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, and Knightsen among others.</p> <p>Auberry, Big Creek, Biola, Burrel, Cantua Creek, Caruthers, Clovis, Coalinga, Del Rey, Dunlap, Firebaugh, Five Points, Fowler, Fresno, Friant, Helm, Hume, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Lakeshore, Laton, Mendota, Miramonte, Mono Hot Springs, Orange Cove, Parlier, Piedra, Prather, Raisin City, Reedley, Riverdale, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma, Shaver Lake, Squaw Valley, Tollhouse, Tranquillity</p> <p>Ahwahnee, Bass Lake, Chowchilla, Coarsegold, Madera, North Fork, O Neals, Oakhurst, Raymond, Wishon</p> <p>Algonia, Auburn, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Des Moines, Duvall, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Milton, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, Woodinville, Yarrow Point</p> <p>Acampo, Clements, Escalon, Farmington, French Camp, Holt, Lathrop, Linden, Lockeford, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, Thornton, Tracy, Vernalis, Victor, Woodbridge</p> <p>Catheys Valley, Coulterville, El Portal, Fish Camp, Hornitos, Mariposa, Midpines, Yosemite National Park</p> <p>Atwater, Ballico, Cressey, Delhi, Dos Palos, El Nido, Gustine, Hilmar, Le Grand, Livingston, Los Banos, Merced, Planada, Santa Rita Park, Snelling, South Dos Palos, Stevinson, Winton</p> <p>Alpaugh, Badger, California Hot Springs, Camp Nelson, Cutler, Dinuba, Ducor, Earlimart, Exeter, Farmersville, Goshen, Ivanhoe, Kaweah, Kings Canyon National Park, Lemon Cove, Lindsay, Orosi, Pixley, Porterville, Posey, Richgrove, Sequoia National Park, Springville, Strathmore, Sultana, Terra Bella, Three Rivers, Tipton, Traver, Tulare, Visalia, Waukena, Woodlake, Yettam</p> <p>Amador City, Drytown, Fiddletown, Ione, Jackson, Kit Carson, Martell, Pine Grove, Pioneer, Plymouth, River Pines, Sutter Creek, Volcano</p> <p>Altaville, Angels Camp, Arnold, Avery, Burson, Campo Seco, Copperopolis, Douglas Flat, Glencoe, Hathaway Pines, Mokelumne Hill, Mountain Ranch, Murphys, Rail Road Flat, San Andreas, Vallecito, Valley Springs, Wallace, West Point, Wilseyville</p> <p>Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford</p> <p>Big Oak Flat, Chinese Camp, Columbia, Groveland, Jamestown, Long Barn, Mi Wuk Village, Moccasin, Pinecrest, Sonora, Soulsbyville, Standard, Strawberry, Tuolumne, Twain Harte, Alpine Village, Bear Valley, Fredericksburg, Kirkwood, Lake Alpine, Loope, Markleeville, Mesa Vista, Arbuckle, College City, Colusa, Grimes, Lodoga, Maxwell, Princeton, Stonyford and Williams.</p> <p>Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista</p>	
<b>7. Counties Served</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	Alameda, Contra Costa Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne Imperial, San Diego	
<b>8. City of Los Angeles</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes and/or communities your project will serve.	Not Applicable	
<b>9. Community Based Organizations</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organization?	No	
<b>10. Regional Center Data</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
If you plan to use regional center data for your project, indicate what steps you will take (or already have taken) to acquire it. For example, completing a data agreement, completing a data request, meeting with RC to discuss data availability/timelines, etc.	Congreso Familiar has always relied on data from our local RC by meeting and having discussions with the Diversity & Equity Specialist who is bilingual. We will meet with the other 3 RCs to utilize their data as we have done in the past with RCEB.	
<b>11. First Project Type Selection</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
Select your first project type.	Engagement and Outreach (community events, etc)	
<b>12. Second Project Type Selection</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
Select your second project type (if applicable).	Parent Education (online or in person trainings, etc)	
<b>13. Third Project Type Selection</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
Select your third project type (if applicable).	Not Applicable	
<b>14. Multiple Organizations</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	
Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontractor? If "yes", please upload a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.	No	
<b>15. Leverage &amp; Strategies</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	



APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>Describe how your organization will leverage and build upon strategies, collaborations, and lessons learned to continue to address the identified disparities after completion of the project. How will your project continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?</p>	<p>From its inception, Congreso Familiar has been funded by RCEB. RCEB has been a longtime supporter, funder and partner of Congreso Familiar and continues its commitment to the Latino community.</p> <p>In addition to RCEB, Congreso has established collaborations with the following community partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult day programs (Futures Explored, East Bay Services to the Developmentally Disabled)</li> <li>ABA programs (BIA, Si Se Puede Behavioral Intervention, Inc.)</li> <li>Advocacy groups (DREDF, Disability Rights California)</li> <li>Respite services (Manos Home Respite, ResCare Home Care, Premier Healthcare Services)</li> <li>Special education programs (WCCUSD, MDUSD, Oakley Union School District)</li> <li>Social Security Department</li> <li>Family Resource Centers (Care Parent Network, Family Resource Navigators, Matrix Parent Network, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities)</li> <li>Department of Rehabilitation</li> <li>CalAble</li> <li>Mental Health Specialists (Dr. Rivera-Lopez - psychologist, Veronica McManus, Dr. Bernal - psychiatrist, Dr. Fernandez - psychopharmacologist)</li> <li>Self-advocates (Maria Cabeza)</li> <li>Immigration Services (Law Offices of Nadeem Makada, International Institute of the Bay Area, Immigrant Legal Resource Center)</li> </ul> <p>During the 20 years plus of Congreso, many lessons have been learned. First and foremost, is that the education journey of disability is never over. There are always new situations and new questions. Congreso has grown to reflect the ongoing needs of its families. Children get older, parents get older and needs change. What is not relevant to a family one year, suddenly becomes relevant the next year (e.g., conservatorship). Layered on top of this complex and emotional journey, is the need to speak in a language of comfort and familiarity. It continues to be a shameful fact of life that many families are not spoken to in their language of choice, but instead are forced into a system that promotes a one size fits all in the English language.</p> <p>Moreover, the needs of Spanish-speaking families have only intensified over time. As a result, Congreso has expanded its scope from initial childhood experience into adult experience. It has added workshops on adult transition, conservatorship, day programs, employment, government benefits, and higher education to meet the changing needs of its community.</p>	
<b>Target Population</b>		
<p><b>1. Target Groups Served</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>Select all groups the project will serve. If you select "Pacific Islander" or "Other" use comment section to list all groups.</p>	<p>Hispanic</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>		
<p><b>2. Number of Target Group Served</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.</p>	<p>This project will reach 720 individuals in the Latino target group throughout specific parts of California including MVRC, CVRC, and SDRC.</p>	
<p><b>3. Languages</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.</p>	<p>Spanish</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>		
<p><b>4. Age Groups Served</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS								
Select all Age Groups the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list groups.	16 to 21 , Birth up to Three (Early Start) , Three to Five , Three to 21 , 22 and older									
Applicant Comment										
<b>Project Application</b>										
<b>Project Application</b>										
<p><b>1. Project Summary</b></p> <p>Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>This project is designed to expand Congreso beyond Regional Center of the East Bay to three additional Regional Centers: Central Valley, Valley Mountain, and San Diego. Each of these Regional Centers was chosen due to its large Spanish-speaking population:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="560 583 922 701"> <thead> <tr> <th>Regional Center</th> <th>Spanish-speaking population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>San Diego</td> <td>10,213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valley Mountain</td> <td>4,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Valley</td> <td>9,628</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This project focuses on reaching both individuals and families of people with I/DD who speak Spanish. The project is designed to provide 36 workshops over the course of a 24-month period. These workshops generally will be held on a bi-weekly basis and will be presented and facilitated entirely in Spanish. We anticipate that the following workshops will be included: rights under the Lanterman Act, self-directed services, self-determination, special education rights and responsibilities, in home support services, IEPs, mental health, immigration, social security, conservatorship, transition to adulthood, ABA services, and more. These workshops will be available both live and will be recorded, as allowed, for both future first-time and repeat viewing.</p> <p>The overarching goal in these workshops is to empower families and individuals to be able to advocate for themselves. Congreso is fully committed to the idea that families and individuals are their own best advocates. In addition, the goal of Congreso is to encourage individuals to take on leadership roles in the community. For example, parents who have attended Congreso have gone on to establish support groups, become presenters, join planning committees, community action committees, regional center boards, and developmental disabilities councils.</p> <p>Outreach efforts will include making presentations throughout the three additional RC catchment areas. We will collaborate with CVRC, MVRC and SDRC to schedule presentations to disseminate information on what is Congreso Familiar, share our objectives, goals, and share ways families can connect and benefit from the trainings. Additionally, we will also reach out to Family Resource Centers, Support groups and Special Education departments within school districts with a goal of having 21 presentations. We will also host three outreach events that will be geared towards Spanish speaking individuals with I/DD and their families. We anticipate these presentations to be held virtually at the beginning of this project until COVID restrictions are lifted at which point we will hold these presentations and outreach events in person in the three RC areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, the creation of a virtual Congreso revealed a stark digital divide that had heretofore gone unnoticed. Many of the families accessing the Congreso workshops were only able to do so on a cell phone, thus limiting their viewing of PowerPoint presentations and demonstrations. Families also expressed their difficulty in accessing on-line programs with only a cell phone at their disposal.</p> <p>As such, this proposal seeks to help eliminate this digital divide through the provision of devices to a total of 200 regional center families/individuals spread out among four regional centers: East Bay, Central Valley, Valley Mountain, and San Diego. Families/individuals will receive a device, which will allow sufficient access to workshops, trainings, zoom meetings, virtual day programs, virtual therapy appointments, meetings with their Regional Center case managers, and others. More importantly, this project will provide training to the recipients as to how to use the devices so that they can easily access all of the aforementioned services.</p> <p>We continue to hear from the Latino community that Wi-Fi connectivity is not readily available and many families have limited resources. Often times the household might be limited to only one device or a weak Wi-Fi signal making it impossible for parents to participate in trainings. Due to the recent pandemic, having access to a reliable internet connection and device has become crucial. For this reason, we will work with various digital communications providers (e.g. AT&amp;T, Comcast) to compile a list of programs and offerings to get people online.</p> <p>We also plan to provide trainings on how to connect and utilize the devices and create ongoing support with communications providers.</p>	Regional Center	Spanish-speaking population	San Diego	10,213	Valley Mountain	4,718	Central Valley	9,628	
Regional Center	Spanish-speaking population									
San Diego	10,213									
Valley Mountain	4,718									
Central Valley	9,628									
<p><b>2. Organization Experience</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>									

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS												
<p>What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?</p>	<p>Congreso Familiar has existed for over 20 years as a successful conference event. Over the years, Congreso has affiliated with non-profit organizations and has also existed as self-sustaining non-profit entity. For purposes of this grant proposal, Congreso is affiliated with The Arc of California as a fiscal agent.</p> <p>The Arc of California, established in 1950, is a statewide advocacy group with 22 chapters throughout the state dedicated to advancing and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of California has successfully completed statewide trainings for the IDD community and has provided educational and advocacy trainings specifically for communities impacted by racial disparities in regional center services.</p> <p>If Congreso is fortunate enough to receive this grant, it anticipates that it will be staffed by a project director, project coordinator, and project assistant. The anticipated project director and project coordinator are both parents of children with IDD and have years of advocacy and training experience. The anticipated project assistant is an individual with a developmental disability. All are fluent in Spanish. Additionally, the three individuals bring with them the following experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 years of experience supporting families of people with IDD</li> <li>Supported over 700 families in self-advocacy</li> <li>Five years as Congreso coordinator</li> <li>Chair and member of Contra Costa Developmental Disability Council</li> <li>RCEB board member for 4 years</li> <li>Facilitated over 150 Spanish-speaking support groups</li> <li>Conducted 50 IEP trainings and workshops in Spanish</li> <li>Conducted 8 Adult transition workshops in Spanish</li> <li>Chair and member of STAR Autism conference</li> <li>WCCUSD Community Advisory Committee Chair and member</li> </ul>													
<p><b>3. Underserved Target Populations</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>													
<p>Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.</p>	<p>There is a great inequity in the supports and services being received by the Spanish-speaking population in the identified RCs. The bottom line is that Latino families in these regional center catchment areas received two to three times less in service dollars than their white counterparts. While many factors come into play here, it is unquestioned that education and advocacy will go a long way in correcting this economic discrepancy. When families and individuals know how - and for what - to advocate, equities will start to rearrange themselves.</p> <p>The RC POS data shows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="378 1150 922 1314"> <thead> <tr> <th>Regional Center</th> <th>Per capita expenditures <b>Latinos</b></th> <th>Per capita expenditures <b>Whites</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>San Diego</td> <td>\$7,824</td> <td>\$17,349</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valley Mountain</td> <td>\$7,848</td> <td>\$16,298</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Valley</td> <td>\$8,192</td> <td>\$21,465</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Regional Center	Per capita expenditures <b>Latinos</b>	Per capita expenditures <b>Whites</b>	San Diego	\$7,824	\$17,349	Valley Mountain	\$7,848	\$16,298	Central Valley	\$8,192	\$21,465	
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<p><b>4. Input from Community</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>													

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>How did your organization use input from the community and/or target population to design the project? What methods did your organization use to allow the community to advise you in designing the project? Were there any changes to your project design as a result of community input?</p>	<p>Congreso Familiar exists because of input from the community. In fact, Congreso was founded by a group of Latino parents who were frustrated by the lack of Spanish-speaking services available to them. Throughout the years, the Latino community has consistently and continually stated that it wants trainings and education in Spanish, their primary language. However, prior to the advent of Congreso such training and education were limited, at best. The lack of training and education in the primary language created additional and unnecessary barriers to Spanish-speaking families. Navigating a complex system such as the Regional Center is difficult in English; imagine the communication difficulties when trying to speak in a less than familiar language.</p> <p>Congreso's advocacy training also addresses the very real cultural imprint on Spanish-speaking families not to challenge authority, whether it be the perceived authority of case managers, teachers, therapists, etc. From a cultural standpoint, many Spanish-speaking families are held to the belief that "the professionals know best." As a result, families are reluctant to state their own viewpoints, desires, and disagreements. What Congreso tries to impart to its participants is that it is the families who know their children best and are best able to make decisions about them. This is a significant change in perspective for many of these families.</p> <p>Additionally, Spanish-speaking families with limited education suffer a lack of confidence in their ability to take on, let alone, challenge a system. Part of Congreso's mission is to instill confidence in these families through its education and advocacy.</p> <p>Congreso, in its current iteration, relies heavily on participant surveys and feedback. Participants in virtual workshops are asked to submit a survey, as well as provide any additional feedback. Surveys measure ease of access, usefulness of information, and practicality of information. Of the virtual workshops to date, 71% of families have indicated that it has been easy to access the presentations and there has been 5% of families who still find it difficult to or very difficult to participate in virtual trainings. A surprising 90% of families have shared that they will be able to utilize the information they receive during the trainings.</p> <p>Family members and individuals also offer comments, which have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agradezco a RCEB y al comité coordinador por no abandonarnos en estos momentos de tanta incertidumbre, saber que contamos con ustedes cada semana me ayuda a sentirme mejor. Ahora por este medio virtual he podido participar de más presentaciones. Comparadas con las conferencias en vivo ahora estoy aprendiendo más y de la comodidad de mi hogar. SON EXCELENTES!!! (I want to thank RCEB and the coordinating committee for not abandoning us in these moments of so much uncertainty, knowing that we count on you every week helps me feel better. Now through this virtual platform I have been able to participate in more presentations. Compared to in-person presentations, I am now learning more and from the comfort of my home. THEY ARE EXCELLENT!!!)</li> <li>• Gracias. Ejemplo perfecto porque se necesitan presentadores quienes pueden presentar en español. En español solo por favor! (Thank you. Perfect example why presenters are needed who can present in Spanish. In Spanish only please!)</li> <li>• GRACIAS justo lo que necesitaba saber en este momento (THANK YOU just what I needed to know right now)</li> <li>• ¡Excelente y muy útil la información! (Excellent and very useful information!)</li> <li>• Me da mucho gusto saber que esta nueva realidad está sacando nuevas habilidades nuestras y empatía de todos, gracias (I am very happy to know that this new reality is drawing new skills from us and empathy from everyone, thanks)</li> <li>• Gracias por la información. Ayuda mucho para estos momentos que se están viviendo. Gracias (Thanks for the information. It helps a lot during these moments that we are living. Thank you)</li> <li>• Gracias por tan valiosa información y presentadores de tanta calidad y conocimiento (Thank you for such valuable information and presenters of such quality and knowledge)</li> <li>• Me han dado herramientas para abogar por las necesidades de mis hijos utilizando el vocabulario adecuado. ¡Gracias infinitas!!! (You have given me the tools to advocate for my children's needs using the appropriate vocabulary. Infinite thanks!!!)</li> <li>• Quiero agradecer al equipo del webinar por estas presentaciones que ayudan mucho a la comunidad hispanoparlante a entender el proceso en estos tiempos de covid-19. (I want to thank the webinar team for these presentations which greatly help the Spanish-speaking community to understand the process in these times of covid-19.)</li> </ul> <p>Based on input received from its virtual workshops, Congreso realized the extent of the digital challenges being faced by its Spanish-speaking families. Cell phone screen were obviously not designed to be used to access virtual school, virtual therapy, virtual appointments, and virtual regional center meetings. One family stated that given that the family only has a single cell phone, their child has been unable to attend any virtual physical therapy appointments since the pandemic began. This is time that the child will never again have due to the simple lack of access of a larger device. This issue has been echoed by numerous families. Through this grant, Congreso seeks to work with the four stated Regional Centers to provide devices to families who have lost access to much needed services. The need for such devices is immediate and imperative.</p>	
<p>5. Improve Access</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>How will your project improve equity, access and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and is sustainable?</p>	<p>The simple truth is that if you don't understand the system, you cannot access the system. This fact is demonstrated in the inequities among ethnic groups set forth in DDS's own data on regional center spending.</p> <p>Congreso is dedicated to teaching Spanish-speaking families and individuals advocacy skills, regardless of system or need. Congreso covers not only the Regional Center system, but the special education system, the health insurance system, and the disability benefits systems. Learning to access one system opens the door to access all systems. By ensuring better access to all systems both families and individuals receive better access to services. Better access to services, results in better outcomes.</p> <p>Congreso teaches families their rights and responsibilities, as well as how to exercise those. Family members and individuals are taught how to advocate to the best of their ability and for what is best for their individual family member. A mantra of Congreso is to empower and respect individual choices.</p> <p>Congreso's dedication to building and promoting leadership endeavors also contributes to the breaking of equity barriers. The more the community's leadership is represented by diversity in language and culture, the better for all involved. Congreso "graduates" serve on multiple community boards, committees, and advocacy groups.</p> <p>As far as sustainability of this project, RCEB has supported, believed in, and funded Congreso for 20 plus years. This project allows the three additional identified regional centers a one-year pilot program to determine if they will continue with their own financial support. We are confident that once the project has commenced and been completed, these three Regional Centers will see the value in what we are providing.</p>	
<p><b>6. Support RC's Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>How does this project support the RC recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce your identified disparities? How will your project collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>The focus of this grant proposal is entirely consistent with the goals of the grant: building leadership capacity, creating collaboration opportunities between families/individuals and regional centers, and improving access and training to technology.</p> <p>Congreso will provide education as a base of leadership capability. Upon that educational foundation, Congreso will provide leadership training so that families/individuals can see what not only is possible but what actually is. Leaders who were once in the same position as the families/individuals attending Congreso will provide an example of not only what is possible but what can happen.</p> <p>Through Congreso, families/individuals will learn how to access and approach their regional center case managers in order to achieve what is best for their family member/themselves. Learning how to navigate the Regional Center system and how to understand what is available – and what is not – is an essential part of Congreso's teachings.</p> <p>Congreso recognizes the digital divide that currently and sadly exists for its Spanish-speaking families/individuals. By providing adequate devices and the knowledge of how to use them, Spanish-speaking families/individuals will be able to participate immediately in the greater virtual world.</p>	
<p><b>7. Project different or unique</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>How is the proposed project unique or different from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and goals) in the proposed regional center catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?</p>	<p>To our knowledge, there is no comparable project in the three proposed regional centers.</p> <p>What is perhaps unique about this project is that Congreso has a proven track record of success with RCEB. The desire is to duplicate this success in the Regional Centers of Central Valley, Valley Mountain, and San Diego.</p>	
<p><b>8. Activities &amp; Measures to Achieve Goal</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>Clearly and specifically state how the schedule of activities and measures demonstrate the operational details and steps that the project will take to achieve its stated goals, activities, and measures. <b>Note:</b> Before answering this question, applicant may want to complete the Activities Template located in the tab directly above.</p>	<p>The goals of this project are to educate and promote leadership as well as lessen the digital divide by providing workshops, outreach activities and devices. The schedule of activities sets forth a schedule of 36 workshops that Congreso intends to provide virtually and in-person when the health department deems it safe. Each of these workshop topics take into account that different families will be in different places on their journey. Education is at the forefront of each of the topics. We anticipate topics to include rights under the Lanterman Act, self-directed services, self-determination, special education rights and responsibilities, in home support services, IEPs, mental health, immigration, social security, conservatorship, transition to adulthood, etc. Leadership workshops will be woven into these topics to encourage Spanish-speaking participants to engage in their community and emerge as leaders. Once devices have been provided, trainings will include tutorials on how to set the devices as well as how to use platforms such as Zoom to access our ongoing trainings. These trainings will be open to not only the individuals that receive devices but to anyone who could benefit from the support and information.</p>	
<p><b>9. Measures</b></p> <p>Are your proposed measures appropriate to track project goals and activities, provide insight into the effectiveness of the overall design of the project and demonstrate how the impact on the community will be evaluated?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Evaluation tools include surveys, feedback, comments, number of workshops and number of participants, as well as anecdotal success stories provided in each quarterly grant report. Congreso Familiar relies heavily on family feedback to format and tailor presentations to address their ongoing needs. In its history, Congreso has learned how important it is to provide these trainings in their language and the feedback has always been positive as seen in this comment from 2016:</p> <p>“Todo estuvo muy bien especialmente estoy muy agradecida que todo es en mi idioma. ♥ 😊 Gracias.” (Everything was very good. I am very especially grateful that everything is in my language. ♥ 😊 Thank you.)</p> <p>In 2017, 93% of the evaluations indicated that they learned a lot of new information and someone said: “Todo estuvo muy bien. Necesitamos más información y gracias por proveer esta información en nuestro idioma.” (All was very good. We need more information and thank you for providing this information in our language.)</p> <p>We also have learned how eager and how much families crave this useful information as demonstrated in the following comment: “Siguen teniendo Congreso Familiar todos los años. Aprendí mucho, pero necesito volver el año que viene para aprender más.” (Keep having Congreso Familiar every year. I learned a lot but I need to come back next year to learn more.)</p> <p>Moreover, in 2018, 100% of the families surveyed said they feel a lot more capable of advocating for their family members after attending Congreso Familiar.</p> <p>We have been able to show that Congreso Familiar is effective in providing the information, education and advocacy skills that families are looking for and we know the impact on the Latino community within the RCEB catchment area has been vital to their growth as advocates for their family members. We would be remiss if we did not make this wonderful resource available to other parts of the state.</p>	
<p><b>10. Budget Narrative</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p><b>Note: Before uploading your Budget Narrative, applicants should complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above. After you complete the Budget Template, please return to this question to upload your Budget Narrative.</b></p> <p>The project budget is consistent with stated projected goals and activities, and clearly and concisely explains how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design. The project budget costs are clearly associated with the project activities and goals. The project budget does not include non-allowable costs. The overall project budget is appropriate to the outcomes proposed. Please attach your Budget Narrative document. An example of a Budget Narrative can be found in Attachment C.</p>		1
<b>Proposal Certification</b>		
<b>Certification</b>		
<p><b>1. Applicant &amp; Regional Center Discussion</b></p> <p>If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with the RC(s)?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Yes</p>	4
<p><b>2. Applicant Certification</b></p> <p>By submitting this application, the Applicant is certifying the truth and accuracy of the proposal. The applicant also certifies that if you have subcontracting organizations, each participating organization has reviewed your project and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget. (Select Yes or No and enter you name in the comment box.)</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>Yes</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Comment		